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The First Talk Of Peace

The first unofficial talk of peace between Japan and Russia seems to meet with as much encouragement as could be expected in St. Petersburg. That leading Russians should go so far as to say even unofficially that while Russia does not want arbitration, it is a not impossible solution of the difficulty, certainly leaves the way open for more definite propositions. Should they be tentatively made and find Russia in a receptive frame of mind, it is not impossible that The Hague conference may have another big job on its hands. The difficulty of framing any terms of arbitration at the present stage, without too great humiliation to Russia and too much surrendering of results by Japan, is, however, so great that there is probably no very great hope that anything can be accomplished at this time.

From time to time there have come from the Far East and also from Europe, reports of a possible Russo-Japanese alliance as the final outcome of the difficulty. It has been pointed out that the most natural thing in the world for these two powers to do, instead of pursuing a disastrous conflict over Manchuria and Korea, is to divide the territory amicably and form a friendly alliance. Their combined power in that part of the world would certainly be tremendous. Their influence in the affairs of China would be paramount. Would Japan take Korea and leave Manchuria to Russia on these terms? Two objections are, first that such an alliance with Russia would be a gross ingratitude on Japan's part to Great Britain, and second the doubt whether Russia can be trusted. Unless held at bay with force of arms, there will always be suspicion that she plans steady return to the lands from which she is being driven now. As Kipling put it, "Make ye no truce with Adam-zad, the Bear that walks like a Man." Kipling's poem voices a world-wide distrust of Russian diplomacy and after the lesson of Port Arthur and Manchuria, years ago, Japan must feel the same distrust.

The suggestion of peace at once raises the question of terms. Japanese statesmen have talked of restoring Manchuria to China and collecting a big indemnity from Russia. It is safe to say that the indemnity idea will have to be given up if Russia is to discuss peace at all at this stage of the game. The war is no longer all Japan's. Russian armies may retire and retire, say her leaders, but they will come back. Years may pass, as one Russian soldier put it recently, but eventually if the war lasts the armies will be found returning, no matter how slowly, millions strong if necessary. With this long and dangerous prospect ahead for Japan, with Kuropatkin still holding on to his position near Mukden, and with Port Arthur holding out, the two nations are in a position to negotiate on equal terms. A long series of defeats has not really weakened Russia's power to continue the war on land, where it must be eventually fought out if anywhere.

The statement that Great Britain, France and America may join in an attempt to secure peace may prove of deep significance. There have been rising demands for intervention recently and if the powers should combine for such a purpose they might bring about a satisfactory conclusion of hostilities. On the other hand, they might all get mixed up in a bigger war than ever. Germany is apparently left out of the combination.

Exclusion Of Japanese

The political campaign in California brought out a lot of discussion of Japanese exclusion. Several candidates made it a part of their canvass to promise that they would work for laws which will exclude Japanese as Chinese are now excluded. The Pacific Coast, which led in the agitation for the present outrageous Chinese law, is stirring in the same old way. At the same time national labor organizations see in the Japanese a danger to the vast trust they want to build up under the title of labor unions.

A large proportion of the Japanese arrivals who have recently attracted attention on the coast have been from Hawaii. Most of the politicians and some of the newspapers do not stop to note this, but assume that the way to put an end to the arrivals is to frame an exclusion law. The San Francisco Evening Post in an editorial which is a sample of quite a number, says: "If Japan should defeat Russia and should become a formidable world power, which at present seems likely, the Japanese will flood the Pacific Coast States and will resent any interference on the part of the United States. It is absurd to suppose that the Japanese, flushed with victory, will tolerate any Japanese exclusion act. And yet their presence in our midst is as deeply to be deplored as the presence of the Chinese, who are not one-fourth as arrogant in their demeanor toward the white man. No matter how much we may deplore the atrocities which the Russians have been guilty in their conduct, not only toward the Jews at Kishineff, but toward other human beings, there can be no doubt that a Japanese victory means untold trouble for the United States, and especially for the Pacific Coast. The Russo-Japanese problem is a difficult problem for the United States to solve. Taking one consideration with another, however, it seems to us that there is less danger in a victory for Russia than in a victory for Japan. In spite of ourselves our sympathies may be with Japan. But our better judgment forces us to the conclusion that a victory for Russia will be the safest thing for this country."

Aside from the Japanese who are in Hawaii and on American soil, it is not likely that there will ever be any great movement of Japanese to the United States, while they are regarded as undesirable at least. The immigration is stopped at the other end. The emperor of Japan has pursued the policy of regulating immigration at home and preventing departures in large numbers such as would cause trouble in America, probably for the very reason that he saw danger to the friendly relations between the two nations, in labor agitations such as have begun now. Of course Japan would not stand any such exclusion law as that which the Chinese have to submit to. No self-respecting nation able to resist ought to submit to such a law.

One Republican Went To Defeat

The defeat of Governor Peabody for re-election in Colorado appears to be the lone Republican loss in the campaign. Peabody has been for nearly all of his term the center of as lively a row as ever a State governor became involved in, and for months past he has had a large part of the state under martial law. The labor troubles at Cripple Creek, which culminated in the killing of thirteen non-union men by an explosion of dynamite and the summary deportation of union men from the state by the military acting under Peabody's orders, have attracted the attention of the entire nation. In the campaign that has just closed, the governor, who stood firm for his military policy in spite of the protests of union laborers, was the great issue in a large part of the state. The campaign against Peabody closed with a lot of affidavits, sworn to by officers in the State militia, by the victims of the outrages in Cripple Creek and by private citizens who participated in the lawlessness, which allege that the Governor of the State, Adjutant-General Sherman M. Bell and his staff entered into and executed a conspiracy to cause outrages of all kinds to be committed in the gold camp, for the two-fold purpose of keeping up the high state of feeling of the mine owners against the strikers, to keep the militia in the field, and to carry out their part in completely breaking up the organization of the Western Federation of Miners.

The defeat of Peabody may be expected to result in a less stern handling of the labor problem in Colorado. The Western Federation of Miners may

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be able to reorganize. The great strike and the firm policy of the retiring executive have given it a blow from which it will not soon recover. Added to the executive campaign against it is the loss of public sympathy which followed the dynamiting outrage. Peabody held that the federation was in actual rebellion against the government of the United States and he exercised his powers to put it down. The election returns would seem to indicate that the people of Colorado think he went too far. For Roosevelt, who was also charged with personally assuming too much power, the State gave a majority of ten thousand. The comparison with Missouri is interesting. Roosevelt carried both States by 10,000. In one a Democratic governor won in spite of Roosevelt's 10,000. In the other a Republican governor could not win with it.

Charges of overriding the constitution are very old in American politics, as was neatly brought out in an address delivered in New York by Secretary Hay. In the course of his replies to Democratic expressions of fear for the beloved constitution he said: "This constitution of ours must possess a marvelous vitality to have survived all the attempts to save it. They began in the time of Washington. He was a tyrant, too, in his day. The constitution was constantly in danger of violation at his hands. Next Jefferson was accused of the same crime; in fact he rather suspected himself at the time of the Louisiana purchase—but the people forgave him and applauded, and that act is now the brightest jewel in his coronal of fame. But the most dangerous enemy of the constitution, the one whose supposed violations of that sacred instrument excited the most frenzied cries of rage and terror, was Abraham Lincoln that mild prison lawyer, that old Clay Whig, who worshipped the constitution scarcely less than his Maker. Even the Democrats have now grown ashamed of these attacks and it has become fashionable for them to praise and to quote him. That eminent constitutional jurist Senator Tillman the other day joined the ranks of his admirers and reproached the Republican party for having forsaken his teachings. In the evolution of Lincoln's fame we have seen some strange happenings, but we were not prepared to see him defended with a pitchfork. Patriotism was once petulantly called the last refuge of a scoundrel."

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dred. The constitution which we ought all to cherish and revere as something sacred, is coming to be considered as a missile to be thrown at the head of our opponents whenever we fall short of other ammunition. The simple fact is that no president has ever violated the constitution and I risk nothing in saying that no president will violate it in the next four years."

H. M. Kaniho's hold on the voters of Kohala seems to be a lasting one. Kaniho is the author of the famous Lady Dog legislation. He is a staunch Home Ruler and an orator of endurance, but he has never been regarded as a grafter.

Some important changes have taken place since Admiral Alexieff was last in St. Petersburg. In America a man who made such a record of blunders as this admiral has in the Far East, would be driven out of office. But Alexieff is still close to the throne. He is even congratulated by the Czar for his recent work, credit for most of which the world general gives to Kuropatkin.

The leper settlement went strongly Republican again.

With Maryland, Missouri and West Virginia in the Republican or doubtful column, Democrats must wonder how long they will have a "Solid South." The late Robert G. Ingersoll by way of a joke once remarked that he would believe in a hell when Kentucky went Republican. He lived long enough to see Kentucky fulfil her part of the bargain, but failed to carry out his own. He would probably have been quite willing to make the remark about Missouri.

Aluminum horseshoes have been given a thorough test by the Russians during the present war and have proved quite satisfactory, saving the horses' feet more than iron shoes do.

John Welsh, the runner on the Olympia who fired the first shot of the battle of Manila, is on recruiting duty in this country now, and is being made quite a hero of at Milwaukee.

A number of the millionaires who live in one of the Philadelphia suburbs have formed a fire department of their own and are to build an engine-house and fully equip it with all the necessary up-to-date apparatus at their own expense. They will employ a large fire company and so protect their own summer homes. Among the members of the organization are John Wanamaker, P. A. B. Widener and C. A. Barney.

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